

Steele Magnolia 93-1





_____ at the _____
Ivoryton Playhouse

1993 SEASON

5 SPARKLING SHOWS = 11 WEEKS OF ENTERTAINMENT

**STEEL
MAGNOLIAS**

by Robert Harling

Life-long friends meet to laugh, cry
and disagree at Truvy's beauty shop.

JUNE 22 - JULY 3

**LEND ME
A TENOR**

by Ken Ludwig

The funniest farce of this decade! Doors,
dames, divas – what a fine madness

JULY 6 - JULY 17

3 WEEKS

THE PAJAMA GAME

3 WEEKS

book by *George Abbott & Richard Bissell*
music and lyrics by *Richard Adler & Jerry Ross*

"Hey there!" The big Broadway hit – song, dance and romance keep the factory spinning

JULY 21 - AUGUST 7

HARVEY

The Pulitzer Prize Comedy

by Mary Chase

Elwood P. Dowd and his six-foot rabbit
turn the town upside down

AUGUST 10 - AUGUST 21

**DIAL 'M' FOR
MURDER**

by Frederick Knott

Spine-tingling British thriller guaranteed
to keep you on the edge of your seat

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 5



at the
Ivoryton Playhouse

THEATRE FOR CHILDREN

MAIN STREET, IVORYTON

All Performances At 11:00 a.m.

EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW

SUMMER OF 1993

FRIDAY, June 25 - "JACK AND THE BEANSTALK"

(Performed by The Fanfare Theatre Ensemble)

FRIDAY, July 2 - "SUM SUM SUMMERTIME SHOW"

(Performed by Rainbow Music)

FRIDAY, July 9 - "ALADDIN AND HIS WONDERFUL LAMP"

(Performed by Alliance Theatre Company)

FRIDAY, July 16 - "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"

(Performed by The Fanfare Theatre Ensemble)

FRIDAY, July 23 - "JOHNNY APPLESEED"

(Performed by Jim West)

FRIDAY, July 30 - "CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY"

(Performed by Emilis Entertainment)

MONDAY, August 2 - "PUSS IN BOOTS"

Special Performance at 7:00 P.M.

(Performed by River Rep's own Youth Theatre)

FRIDAY, August 6 - "PUSS IN BOOTS"

11:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.

(Performed by River Rep's own Youth Theatre)

FRIDAY, August 13 - "RUMPELSTILTSKIN"

(Performed by The Penny Bridge Players)

FRIDAY, August 20 - "THE ADVENTURES OF PENNY PANDA"

(Performed by The Fanfare Theatre Ensemble)

FRIDAY, August 27 - "LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD"

(Performed by The Fanfare Theatre Ensemble)

**All
Seats
\$5**

BOX OFFICE OPEN NOW

**BOX
767-8348
OFFICE**

THE RIVER REP
at the
IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE

presents

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

by

ROBERT HARLING

Starring

**Annette
Hunt**

**Sally
Parrish**

**Jenn
Thompson**

**Joan
Shepard**

**Jennifer
Fisk**

**Diana
Marbury**

Directed by

JANE STANTON

Settings by

Ron Gasparinetti

Lighting by

Stephen Chené

Costumes by

Jennie Cleaver

Production Stage Manager

Kevin E. Thompson

Welcome to the 7th Season of THE RIVER REP

THE RIVER REP

is a professional company
dedicated to bringing you the best
in theatre

Producing Partners

Jane Stanton
Artistic Director

Joan Shepard
Managing Director

James W. Kelley

Evan Thompson

James A. Wilson

The River Rep dedicates its 1993 Season
to the memory of

Warren Kelley's partner and companion

PATRICK JOHN DeFLUMERI

April 3, 1955

January 13, 1993

please help in the fight against AIDS

DON'T MISS THE REST OF OUR LUCKY SEVENTH SEASON

★ LEND ME A TENOR

July 6 - July 17

The funniest farce of this decade!

Doors, dames, divas – what a fine madness

★ THE PAJAMA GAME

July 21 - August 7

"Hey there!" The big Broadway hit –

song, dance and romance keep the factory spinning

★ HARVEY

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The Pulitzer Prize Comedy

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Press Representative	James A. Wilson
Production Manager	Arthur Pignataro
Technical Director	Adam Zonder
Master Electricians	David Goldsmith, David O'Connor
Scenic Artist	Paul Reddin
Assistant to the Director	Jessica Ammirati
Beauty Shop Consultant	Wendy Chichester
D.J.'s Voice	Rik Malone
Sound Design	Richard Loyd
Stage Crew	Megan Flagg, Shannon Reich
Set/Paint Crew	Megan Flagg, Ian Mangler, Laura Kitchings, Shawn Price
Electrics Crew	Matthew Dobush, Rob Francis, Andrew Kasznay
Wardrobe Assistants	Pia Bonaparte, Ineke Lorka, Irma Martin, Lynn Poirot, Rosalie Zonder
Special Production Assistants	David Driscoll, Judy Shea
Box Office Manager	Kathleen Sterling
House Manager	Laura Cutler
Box Office Staff	Sarah Johnson, Laura Kitchings, Jo Ann Mahoney, Heather Sterling
Children's Show House Manager	Megan Flagg
Ushers	Friends of The River Rep
Concessions	Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation

Join us after the show at the Piano Lounge of

THE IVORYTON INN

Entertainment nightly

The River Rep would like to thank the following individuals, establishments and organizations who continue to make our Summer Season possible: The Antique Brush Factory, Wilma Asch, Black Point Foods, Inc., Lorraine Brigokas, The Copper Beech Inn, Essex Colony Antiques, Gerald Dubey, Fine Bouche Restaurant & Catering, Pat Foster, Jane Fuller, Nancy Gibson, The Griswold Inn, Dee and Bill Grover, Larry Hamre, Rick Hoskins and his crew from Killingly High School, The Ivoryton Store, The Ivoryton Package Store, The Ivoryton Inn, Roger LeCompte and Helen Smits, Judy and Jeff Lovelace, Lucille Ball Little Theatre of Jamestown, Alan Mariani, Gino Origlia, Porch and Patio Furniture Store, Stonington, CT, Nancy Schieferdecker, SNET, The Stonington Players, Constance Tredwell, Vanderbrooke Bakers and Caterers, Pauline Veillette, Bill and Agnes Waterman, Geoff and Rosalie Zonder and the many other businesses and individuals without whom it would be impossible for us to be here.

THE 1993 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

THE IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE FOUNDATION

I would like to become a member of the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation in the category checked:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25 or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporters (\$250 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$50 or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainers (\$500 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (\$100 or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> Life (\$1000 or more) |

Members dues are applied to the Operations Fund of the Playhouse Foundation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Print name as you would like it to appear

If you work for an organization that has a matching gift program, your contribution can be matched. Simply forward the appropriate form, available through your organization, along with your contribution to the Playhouse.

Please make checks payable to the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 458, Ivoryton, CT 06442

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE FOUNDATION, INC.

A non-profit volunteer organization

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT	Peg Quirin
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Leonard Wyeth
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Constance Tredwell
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT	Wilma Asch
SECRETARY	Lucy Weed
TREASURER	Constance Tredwell

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wilma Asch	Jacqui Hubbard	Mary Paukstys
George E. Bant	John Joseph	Nancy Schieferdecker
Margaret Bernier	RoseMary Loffredo	Max G. Showalter
Pearce Beskin	John Mahon	Constance Tredwell
Lynn Britt	Alan Mariani	Mary Varano
Debbie Chrisman	Sally Melvin	Lucy Weed
Gerald B. Dubey	James B. Murphy	Leonard Wyeth
Lucy Goodale	Gino Origlia	

Life Trustees

Peg Quirin
Edward J. Quirin

Honorary Historians

Henry E. Josten
Carl H. Dahlstrom
Jim Wilson

REHABILITATION

The Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, as a non-profit charitable membership corporation, is dedicated to the restoration of the Playhouse facility. Restorations completed to date enable the offering of year-round use of the theatre. In addition to the traditional summer theatre, there are now concerts, choral singing, children's shows, amateur performances and new play readings offered.

The overall cost of complete restoration of the Playhouse is \$1,000,000; due to the generosity of our friends, \$250,000 has been contributed toward essential improvements.

In order to share this wonderful Playhouse with everyone in our community, we need to install a handicap ramp and facility this year. Additionally, we would like to finish the installation of the final 52 new seats in the rehabilitated balcony. Total rehabilitation should be completed within five years.

In light of our goal, we are hoping you would consider becoming a Rehabilitation contributor. Contributors will be listed within one of the following categories:

\$100	Contributor	\$1,000	Patron
\$250	Theatre Buff	\$2,500	Benefactor
\$500	Seat Purchase	\$5,000	Angel

Note: A contribution of \$500 or more includes the purchase of one seat and the name of donor on an arm of the seat. Contributions may be paid in annual installments over a 5-year period.

I would like to help preserve this historic Theatre by contributing to its rehabilitation by pledging:

\$_____ per year for 5 years for a total of \$_____.

or

\$_____ as a single payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____



IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE

1993-94 CALENDAR

June 25	Ivoryton Playhouse "Wine Tasting" - Essex Island Marina
September 17	Ivoryton Playhouse "Wine Tasting" - Essex Island Marina
September 24-25	"Broadway at Ivoryton"
October 1-3	"Broadway at Ivoryton"
October 9	Gary Sullivan in Concert
October 22-24	The Magic Lantern Theatre presents "A Victorian Halloween"
October 30	Jacqueline Hubbard's "Madhatter's - The Haunted Theatre"
November 13-14	Gilbert & Sullivan presents "Rumpelstiltskin"
December 17-19	The Magic Lantern Theatre "A Victorian Christmas"
1994	
February 11-13	The Magic Lantern Theatre "A Victorian Valentine"

RENTAL INFORMATION

The Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation is pleased to announce that after an extensive rehabilitation effort, the Ivoryton Playhouse is available for rental year-round on an either daily or weekly basis. We have hosted such successful productions such as "Touch of the Child"; "Broadway at Ivoryton"; and a first reading of "Jay's Ecstasy", by Jamie Murphy who plans to present future readings of his work at the Playhouse. The Playhouse has also successfully accommodated weddings, as well as dinners for professional organizations. Please contact the Foundation office for more information at 767-7318.

HISTORY OF THE PLAYHOUSE

The building that is now the Ivoryton Playhouse was built in 1908 as a recreation hall for the employees of the Comstock-Cheney factory. In all likelihood the building would have been demolished long ago, but for its chance encounter with a remarkable man.

Milton Stiefel started his long career in theater as an actor, playing with such famous personalities as Julia Marlow and Lionel Barrymore. Eventually his career took him backstage and he became nationally known as the Assistant Director, right hand and confidant of David Belasco, considered by historians as one of the greatest directors produced by the American Theater. After Belasco's death Stiefel continued as Manager and Stage Director for many extravagant productions which, as was the custom in those days, traveled nationally and played in every major city in the United States. At the conclusion of one of these tours Stiefel came to Essex in a severe state of exhaustion in order to rest and recuperate. He saw the unused recreation hall, knew it would be perfect for a resident stock company, and set about drafting contracts and putting a cast together. "Broken Dishes" had just closed in New York (reportedly with Bette Davis in her first Broadway role), and Stiefel opened with it during the week of June 17, 1930.

The Ivoryton Playhouse is not the oldest summer theater in the country. It is, however, the oldest professional self-supporting summer theater. Older theaters in Dennis, Massachusetts and Skowhegan, Maine, were not self-supporting, but endowed by foundations or families. The Westport theater was founded a year after the Ivoryton. Stiefel's company, made up of his friends, called themselves The New York Players. They lived in private homes in Ivoryton, from which most of the sets and props were borrowed. The company did not break even until the last week of the summer, but that was enough to convince Stiefel that the deal was do-able. Throughout the ensuing years he continued to produce and direct at Ivoryton, and in 1938 he bought the building.

The theater gained in prestige to the point that invitations to work there were highly prized in the theatrical profession. Its reputation grew nationally and Paramount Pictures produced a film short showing its complete operation. A second, longer movie was made several years later by Essex resident, Henry Hull's son-in-law, Charles Turner. It would be wonderful to have copies of those films. The list of actors who have performed at Ivoryton is astonishing and represents a Who's Who of major stage, movie and television performers. The Foundation 1991 calendar has a listing of the plays produced and the actors who appeared in them. With the exception of the period between 1942 and 1946, when World War II made it impossible to continue theater production at Ivoryton, the theater has continued to operate. Milton Stiefel resumed producing in 1946, but times had changed and the resident stock company was replaced by touring packaged productions with stars as headliners. Milton Stiefel retired in 1976 and sold the playhouse property. He continued to be active in the theater's activities in an advisory capacity until his death in 1983.

After Milton Stiefel retired, the theater at Ivoryton went dark. Residents who were proud of its accomplishments and reputation became concerned for its continued existence. As the result, a corporation was formed on March 7, 1978, called The Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc. Its stated purpose was to effect "the restoration and operation of the Playhouse in such a manner as to carry forth the professional high standards for which the theater was known, thereby preserving its entertainment, cultural and educational value." The charter members of the Foundation, all of whom are Life Members, raised \$27,000 and, on June 22, 1979, purchased the property from then owner Kenneth J. Krezel for \$115,000. Two mortgages were taken out at that time, one of which is active today, namely with the Essex Savings Bank. The other, with Mr. Krezel, was fully paid in 1992.

For the next 8 years little progress occurred toward presenting summer theater until The River Rep entered into a leasing agreement with the Foundation and began their first summer season in 1987. They are returning this year for their sixth season. Each of the first five years witnessed a growth in attendance.

Similarly for the years following 1979, very little progress was accomplished in rehabilitating the property until 1985. A design workshop was held in August at the office of Centerbrook Architects which included the attendance of several theater planning consultants. Thanks to the State of Connecticut grant, a nominal fee was paid to the consultants. The result of this all day session was a five year time schedule of a list of rehabilitation items needed to produce a modern facility for year-round use and conforming to present day life-safety and building codes. The estimated total cost was \$550,000. Subsequently, Foundation Architect Stephen L. Lloyd, of Chester, CT, translated the rehabilitation items to a plan of development which has been adopted by the Trustees.

Rehabilitation of the Playhouse began in June, 1987, with the completion of new roof shingles followed by the installation of a security system and by the updating of the air conditioning system. In early 1989, the installation of a new heating system was completed, as well as the work required to satisfy code, such as new door hardware, exit signing and emergency lighting. In 1990, facade improvements were completed, followed by a sprinkler system in 1991, and new balcony stairs. This year will see the completion of raising the balcony risers for better sighting and the installation of 52 new balcony seats.

Approximately 40 percent of the rehabilitation work has been finished for a cost of \$250,000, leaving approximately \$400,000 of remaining work to be accomplished. The expenditure to date was made possible by four matching grants totalling \$46,000 and by contributions from individuals, businesses and corporations totalling \$204,000. The Trustees of the Foundation are grateful to and thank all those who have supported the Foundation.

In 1991, one of the major goals of the Foundation was attained, namely, year-round use. The theater was opened in March and is now open all year. In addition to The River Rep, our patrons are now able to enjoy productions from a variety of organizations in what has truly become "A Theatre For All Seasons".